

Bush Says China Shuffle Took CIA by Surprise

Washington, Feb. 19 (News Bureau)—The appointment of Hua Kuo-feng as acting premier of China, and the subsequent public downgrading of the previous favorite for the job, Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, apparently came as a complete surprise to the Central Intelligence Agency.

CIA Director George Bush told a group of reporters today that there was a "major surprise factor in both these developments ... it was unclear that Hua was going to emerge in this role, and it was also unclear that Teng was going to be passed over."

Bush, who was U.S. envoy in Peking when he was named by President Ford last November, to take over the CIA, could also offer no explanation at this time for Peking's invitation to former President Richard Nixon to visit China.

No Debriefing Plans

Bush said that as far as he knew, there were "no plans" for the CIA to "debrief" Nixon when he returns to the United States. He said he did not know how the State Department or the White House would find out what Nixon learned in Peking, but added that he "hoped" the U.S. government would be able to obtain information from the former President.

The new CIA chief admitted under questioning that, despite the new oversight board created by President Ford, prevention of abuses in the CIA "in the final analysis" depends on "the integrity of the individual."

According to Bush, President Ford's reorganization plan

for the CIA calls for two deputy directors of intelligence, one of whom will take care of intelligence "community" affairs while the other is busy helping to run the CIA.